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# MASSIVE FIRE 'AN ACCIDENT'

By Tom Jennings

**THE owner of a family tool hire business has spoken of his devastation after watching £1m worth of stock burn to the ground.**

The main warehouse of Gem Tool Hire & Sales Ltd in Banbury was caught up in a fire that started in neighbouring business, Oak Cash and Carry.

Almost 100 firefighters from Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire battled the blaze from about 8.30pm on Friday.

A fire service chief said the blaze could have been a lot worse, with the tool hire firm's warehouse yard containing dozens of explosive gas canisters.

Police installed a 200-metre cordon around the warehouse and closed Beaumont Road on Friday.

Over the weekend small explosions, thought to be from aerosol cans, lighter fluid and beer kegs, were still being heard coming from the cash and carry. Fireworks also appeared to be involved.

On Sunday, a 25-metre cordon remained in place as fire crews started their investigation.

The cause was accidental, the fire service has said. It carried out an initial investigation into the blaze, and determined that it started in the roof.

Rewley Road station manager and investigation officer David Bray said: "There were four people in there at the time of the locking up at 8pm and nothing was occurring in there that would have had people high up in the roof."

Mr Bray said there were a "couple of theories" about the cause of the blaze, but said the fire service was waiting for the police to gather CCTV footage from the area and from forensic investigators for the insurance companies before making a final determination.

Gem Tool Hire & Sales Ltd managing director Stephen Moore raced to the scene after a colleague phoned to say the cash and carry



The fire at Oak Cash and Carry on Friday night

## Tool hire firm boss tells how he saw up to £1m of his stock go up in flames

was on fire. He watched as the blaze spread to the main warehouse of the company his father, Gordon Moore, had founded.

Mr Moore, who has worked for the firm for 30 years, said: "My father started this business in 1979. To see this lot go up in flames is devastating."

"I stood there watching it, with the flames

licking over, thinking 'are these guys going to be able to hold it back?'"

Mr Moore said the 6,000sq ft warehouse contained between £750,000 and £1m worth of stock and equipment and was "completely totalled" by the fire.

The company's nearby office block is still **■ continued on page 2**



**Santas on the run for  
hospice – Page 3**

**Police  
arrest  
man  
after  
drug raid  
in town –  
Page 5**



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**InBRIEF****Oxfam fraud court date**

■ **OXON:** The former head of counter-fraud at Oxfam in Oxford will appear at the Old Bailey next month charged with stealing from the charity.

Edward McKenzie-Green, of The Leys, Chipping Norton, is accused of taking £62,857.58 and a laptop in 2011.

The 34-year-old, who denies fraud by abuse of position and theft by employee in July, will appear at the Central Criminal Court in London on January 20, with his trial due to start on March 10.

His father Edward Green, 61, from Cumbernauld, Glasgow, who has denied laundering £35,571.75 of the proceeds of fraud, is also due to appear on the same dates.

**Cops target rural crime**

■ **N OXON:** This month, police will be back out in villages as part of the force's 100 Days of Action to tackle rural crime.

Officers will visit farms to check security measures and give advice. There will also be free tack-marking events, and police will target known offenders.

# Incident could have been even worse if flames spread further

# 100 firefighters had to tackle huge blaze



Station manager Chris Wilson at the scene of the fire in Beaumont Road, Banbury

## ■ continued from page 1

intact and a new warehouse, three doors away from the burnt-out former space, has been saved.

Over the weekend, employees of the firm were transferring what was left of their stock – machinery stored outside – into the new warehouse.

The fire also took out the company's main computer system, which staff also tried to re-establish over the weekend.

Mr Moore, from Banbury, said: "The whole business has come to a grinding halt – at least until we get the computer system working. We are going to continue to trade once we get the phone lines up and running."

Gem Tool Hire & Sales Ltd employs 33 staff – Mr Moore said their jobs were not at risk – and has a turnover of about £1.5m.

As well as the main warehouse, it has satellite units in Bicester and in Rugby, Warwickshire.

No-one was in the warehouse or cash and carry at the time of the fire.

Neighbouring pet store, Pets at Home,

had to be evacuated by the fire service due to smoke-logging, and the animals were returned on Sunday morning.

Station manager Chris Wilson, of Oxfordshire Fire Service, said: "I was on the scene within a couple of minutes of the call and at that early stage the smoke and flames issuing from the building's roof were 50ft or 60ft into the air, causing a large smoke plume to descend over Banbury."

He said there was a "real clear risk" that the fire, which he said reached temperatures of 15,000°C, could have spread to neighbouring properties, adding: "On a scale of magnitude, this could have been 10 times as bad if the fire developed in the way we hoped it would not – if it became uncontrolled."

Firefighters remained at the scene until Monday, making the area safe.

Over the weekend they dismantled external walls, some of which had already collapsed, and used water in "massive" quantities to cool down the site.

No-one was available from Oak Cash and Carry to comment.



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Record number of entrants raise £22,000 for Adderbury hospice

# Running for a good Claus

By Tom Jennings

**DASHING** through Banbury and hundreds of people dressed as Father Christmas for the town's annual Santa Fun Run.

The event, now in its fourth year, took place at Spiceball Park on Sunday and 520 people dressed as Santa Claus took part.

After warming up to Christmas music, the competitors ran or walked the 4km course to raise money for Katharine House Hospice in Adderbury.

Community fundraiser Nicky Hanson said £22,000 was pledged on the day, and the event was the most successful ever for the charity.

She said: "It was just astonishing. We had a record number of Santas and a record amount pledged."

"It costs £3.3m to run the hospice every year but we only receive about 30 per cent from the Government, so we need to raise everything else."

Asked why Santa had been chosen as the costume, she said: "It is the time of year and it is a fun thing to do – we just have so many smiling faces."

About 480 people took part in last year's Santa Fun Run, which raised £17,000 for the hospice, which provides care and support for people with terminal illness.



Competitors take part in the Santa Run 2013 in Spiceball Park, Banbury, in aid of Katharine House Hospice

## Banbury Cake

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## Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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# Local member of 'Arctic 30' is still in Russia after being bailed

# Greenpeace activist

# tells of missing home



Phil Ball in St Petersburg

Picture: Dmitri Sharomov/Greenpeace

HE SPENT two months confined in a Russian prison cell without being able to speak to his family and living off "wallpaper paste" porridge.

But while Greenpeace activist Phil Ball has been released on bail from the jail in Murmansk, the 42-year-old from Chipping Norton is facing Christmas away from his loved ones.

Speaking to the *Banbury Cake* from a hotel in St Petersburg, Mr Ball, who was the last of the British Greenpeace activists to be granted bail on November 22, spoke of the "depressing" time behind bars.

And he has said how much he misses life in West Oxfordshire along with his partner and three children.

Mr Ball, who is a cameraman, said: "Just having some extra amount of freedom and not being locked up for 23 hours a day is quite dramatic.

"It was pretty grim. For the first week-and-a-half there wasn't one mouthful of food that I ate that didn't cause me to gag.

"The level of support I was getting kept me going. I was getting

By Damian Fantato

letters from friends and family, from people down the street and from people I have never met.

"We would be woken up at about 6am, but my phone and watch were taken from me. We would get this porridge which was more like wallpaper paste, and the lights were on for 24 hours a day.

"For exercise we were taken to this yard which was like a big cattle shed divided into pens with a caged roof, which was very grim."

Mr Ball, who grew up in Chipping Norton and attended The Marlborough School in Woodstock, was detained in September with 29 other Greenpeace activists after the Russian authorities boarded their ship the Arctic Sunrise in the Barents Sea.

The Russian soldiers came on board after four Greenpeace members tried to board a Russian oil platform to prevent it from drilling.

Earlier this month the so-called 'Arctic 30' – who face charges of hooliganism – were granted bail

and are now living in a hotel in St Petersburg while they await their next court date.

Mr Ball, who lives in Milton-under-Wychwood, said that since leaving prison he had been in touch with his partner and their three children by Skype, but said he wanted to keep them out of the media spotlight.

He said: "The top of my children's Christmas list is daddy, which brought quite a lump to my throat.

"The main thing I missed was the contact with my family. It was really awful. I have never been away from my family for that long before. I miss walks in the fields near my home and mucking about with my children in the river.

"It is a lovely area and that is where my roots are. I am very keen to get back home and spend time with my family.

"I'm so grateful for the massive level of support from local people who have helped my family while I have been away, from cooking meals for them to helping out around the house."

## Woman guilty of rail track danger

A WOMAN who parked her car on the Sandy Lane rail crossing in Yarnton has pleaded guilty to endangering safety on the railways.

Heather Bister, of Austin Drive, Banbury, appeared at Oxford Crown Court on Friday and admitted committing the offence on Tuesday, November 12, at about 4.40pm.

Sachel Drake, prosecuting, told Judge Mary Jane Mowat that the case would have to be adjourned for eight weeks so reports could be prepared ahead of her sentencing.

The 43-year-old was released on conditional bail and told not to drive, not to enter any rail infrastructure, and to be accompanied by an adult or her 16-year-old daughter when leaving her home address.

South Central Ambulance Service said following the crash that Bister had to be cut from the wreckage and was then taken to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital.

The train was the 2.45pm from Bournemouth to Manchester and there were 90 customers and staff on board, none of who sustained injuries.

Bister will be sentenced at on January 31.

## Man is jailed over sale of jewellery

HANDLING around £2,000 worth of stolen jewellery has landed a Banbury man with an eight-month prison sentence.

Sean Colee, 24, of William Close, pleaded guilty to handling stolen goods on August 12 last year following a break-in in Oxford.

The burglary was carried out by Adam Sherry, who was sentenced to 18 months in prison earlier this year.

Matthew Turner, prosecuting, said Colee and the burglar sold the jewellery, which contained pieces of "high and sentimental value", to a man in Leamington Spa for

£1,000. Judge Patrick Eccles told the 24-year-old defendant the goods had been stolen from a retired woman with Alzheimer's, who could not now remember what had happened to her jewellery, which has never been recovered.

Claire Fraser, defending, told the judge her client felt "genuine remorse".

But Judge Eccles said he suspected the defendant was more sorry about his own situation.

He sentenced Colee to eight months in prison and told him to pay a £100 victims' surcharge.

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■ Man is arrested on suspicion of dealing drugs after house bust

# Suspected cannabis seized in police raid



Police raid the property in Lidsey Road, Banbury

By Sam McGregor

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of dealing drugs after police raided his home in Banbury.

Officers used a battering ram to break in the door of the house in Lidsey Road just after 10.30am on Friday.

Fourteen police officers were involved in the raid. All rooms in the three-bedroom house were searched and a "fairly large" quantity of suspected cannabis was seized by police, along with drugs paraphernalia including scales.

Two cars parked outside were also searched but nothing was found in either vehicle.

A 42-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply cannabis.

He was led away in handcuffs and taken to Banbury police station for questioning.

Two other people were in the property at the time but neither was arrested.

Sgt Katrina Hibbert said: "It's a positive result.

"We have obviously found a quantity of drugs at the address so we have stopped a suspected drug dealer and acted upon information that has been given to us."

Thames Valley Police has not yet provided a street value for the drugs seized.

## InBRIEF

### Scrap metal trial ending

■ **BLOXHAM:** The judge in a scrap metal trial summed up the case and sent the jury out to consider their verdicts on Tuesday.

Brothers Joey and Tommy Smith, 24 and 36, are on trial at Oxford Crown Court accused of displaying "wilful blindness" by accepting cables and metal they suspected were stolen.

The men, from Milton Road, Adderbury, and Bloxham Road, Bloxham, deny disguising, converting or concealing criminal property between last year.

### Villages can take control

■ **N OXON:** Merton and Deddington will be able to take more control over how their area is developed after being approved as designated neighbourhood planning areas.

It means both villages can start work on a neighbourhood development plan, which will outline preferred sites for future development or preservation in their village.

Cherwell District Council's executive approved the plans.



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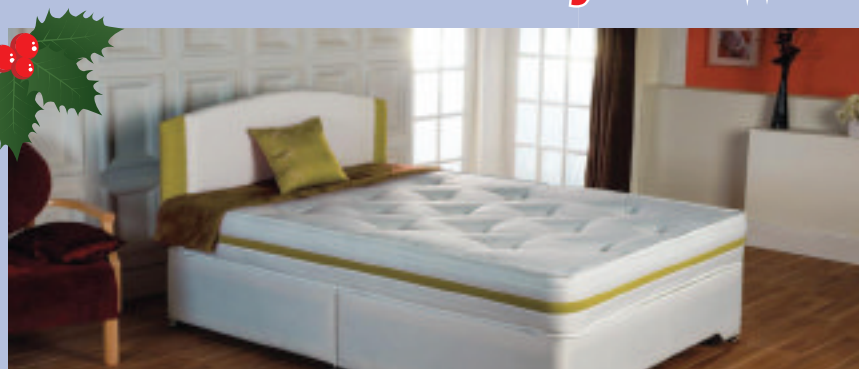
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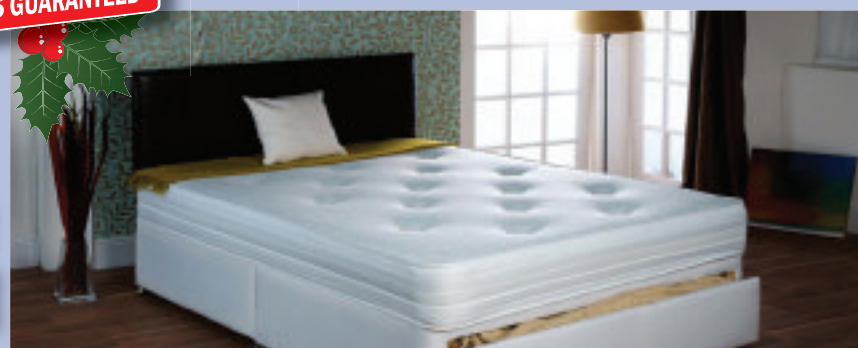
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# Glasses show what happens when you drink-and-drive Your chance to try out 'beer goggles'

**THE DANGERS** of drink-driving will be plain to see for people in Banbury who try out "beer goggles" designed to distort your vision like drunkenness.

Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service is urging shoppers to try out the special glasses so they think twice about getting behind the wheel after too many drinks.

Shoppers at Wheatley's Asda store last Thursday were offered the chance to put on the glasses and walk along a white line.

Little Milton Primary School teaching assistant Diane Austin told *Banbury Cake* she would not drink and drive after trying them.

She said: "It is very strange and disorientating. People ought to try them on and have a go."

Road safety officer Wendy Jennings said the goggles were first tried out in the summer to deter drink-driving in the barbecue season.

She said: "It just gives them the idea of what drink can actually do to you. You feel happy but you don't realise what it is doing to your vision."

Shoppers were also asked to guess how many units were in a range of drinks.

By Ben Wilkinson

Firefighter Jon Moulder said most were aware of the dangers of drink-driving, but added: "It's over the course of having one and moving to having two or three drinks and they don't realise the effect it is having on them."

The drink-driving campaign stall will be at Banbury's Castle Quay Shopping Centre from 2pm to 4.30pm today.

Last year, two people were killed and 84 injured due to drink-driving on the county's roads, compared to eight deaths in 2000.

Twelve people were seriously injured last year compared to 44 injuries in 2000.

Mick Clarke, Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service's Road Safety Manager, added: "Alcohol has a significant effect on drivers' ability to react quickly and judge road conditions."

"The goggles and walking in a straight line scenario we will be encouraging shoppers to take part in is a demonstration of how relatively simple tasks can become difficult if a person is simulated to be under the influence of alcohol."



Diane Austin tries wearing the glasses

## Baldry won't rule out taking pay rise

BANBURY MP Sir Tony Baldry has refused to answer whether he would accept an 11 per cent pay rise recommended by a parliamentary watchdog.

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has outlined a proposal for MPs to receive an 11 per cent rise in their salaries, taking them from £66,396 to £74,000 from 2015.

But many politicians – including Defence Secretary Phillip Hammond and Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander – have rejected the rise.

Four of the six MPs representing Oxfordshire constituencies have expressed disappointment that the proposed rise is so high, but only one, Andrew Smith in Oxford East, has pledged to give the increase away to charity if it is approved.

Sir Tony, pictured, would not comment on what he would do with the increase.

But he did say: "The Government made it clear in the consultation that in their view IPSA should take into account overall public service pay and restraint when addressing the issue of MPs' pay. I think it is clear from comments made by the Prime Minister and others that the Government are disappointed that it has not done so."

"During my time in the House of Commons, MPs have tried having their pay linked to a particular grade in the civil service and that did not work."

"The rises do not come into effect until after the next General Election and there will be a further statutory review by IPSA after the election."

IPSA was set up largely as a response to the parliamentary expenses scandal of 2009 and in 2010 it was also given responsibility for setting the level of MPs' salaries.

To give your views, write to Sir Tony Baldry, House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA or [tony.baldry.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tony.baldry.mp@parliament.uk)





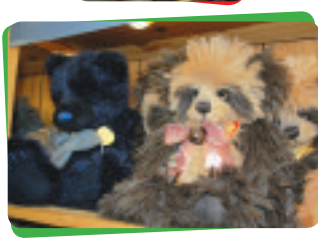
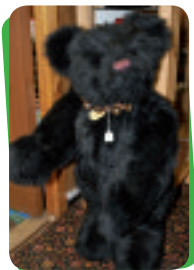
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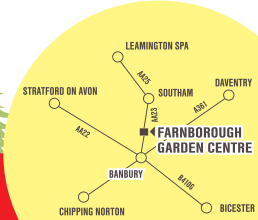
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■ Authority to make huge savings over four years

# Council budget is cut by £64m

**CUTS of £64m over four years have been unveiled for adult social care and children with special needs among others.**

Oxfordshire County Council will cut £7.1m from adult social care, £11.2m from environmental services – including a review of subsidised public transport – and more than £6m from children's services. And the only reason the cuts in adult social care were not even higher was because of a £10m one-off windfall from Government.

The council also aims to increase council tax by 1.99 per cent in 2014/15 and 2015/16, and by three per cent in the following two years.

Cuts in the environment and economy department will include a saving of £3.2m from a review of subsidised and free transport, and £1.3 of cuts to general maintenance work, including verge-trimming and sign-cleaning.

The children's services department will have its budget for people with learning difficulties cut by £1.3m and

**By Freddie Whittaker**

money will also be saved by putting the county music service into a trust, saving £362,000 a year, and by slimming down the attendance service to save £200,000.

The libraries budget will be cut by £250,000 including a £50,000 annual cut in the book budget, but none are expected to close, and funding to arts organisations like the Mill Arts Centre in Banbury will be cut.

County council leader Ian Hudspeth said: "I think it is a very unfortunate situation we find ourselves in with a reduction in funding, but we all know that we have got to reduce the deficit.

"We are a rural county so we try to be as fair and equitable as possible right across the county to assist people, but in the past perhaps there have been some services that have been more than statutory, but we have really had to look at it.

"It is about providing a good service that people value, providing it efficiently and with value for money."



Ian Hudspeth

## All 44 children's centres are safe

CHILDREN'S centres in Oxfordshire will stay open despite a £3m cut in their budget, county council leader Ian Hudspeth has claimed.

Mr Hudspeth said he wanted to keep all 44 centres open – including ones in Banbury and Bloxham – and said the strong public feeling against proposed closures was part of the reason.

He said he and his colleagues had listened to residents, and that views aired at Talking Oxfordshire consultation events had been taken on board, particularly when it came to children's centres.

He said: "The whole idea of Talking Oxfordshire was going out to talk to residents. We had six roadshows across the county, over 1,000 people attended, we have had 400 responses to that conversation.

"Obviously one of the big concerns was children's centres.

"We looked at it and we said how can we create a system where actually we can save as many children's centres (as possible) and actually I don't envisage any closures at all.

"What I want to do is work with everybody to provide a

service and still have a very challenging task of a £3m saving."

He added: "It is not about running it into the ground. It is about working with the community, working with the children's centres."

The potential closure of children's centres became the single biggest issue discussed at the consultation events.

Parents, children's centre staff and supporters all joined protests and signed petitions against a policy they feared would see 37 of the centres closed for good.

Oxfordshire's MPs also weighed into the debate, with even the Prime Minister David Cameron urging the council to protect services in his Witney constituency.

The council said closure was not set in stone, but the idea came to light when staff were briefed about the possibility cuts would be too severe for the centres to survive.

Mr Hudspeth said the saving of £3m proposed in children's centres' budgets would not come for several years, and the delay would give finance bosses the chance to crunch the numbers.

# Great Ideas For Christmas for Family & Friends

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<p><b>Pets</b></p>	<p><b>Work Mates</b></p>	<p><b>Girlfriends</b></p>	<p><b>Grandma</b></p> <p><b>Cushions</b></p>	<p><b>Gifts for Men</b></p>





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# CakeLeisure

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Rear, from left, Bill Gibson, Jan Burrage, Ralph Burrage, Bernard Stradling, volunteer Frances Buckle and Claire Ward of the Guideposts Trust; bottom, from left, Barbara Dunmore, Malcolm Dunmore, Val McKay (coordinator), and Phil Nicks

## Laughter can be finest medicine

**A** RADIO play is helping to stimulate memories for people with dementia who attend the Lights Up arts and memory club in Chipping Norton.

The drama, *A Very Strange Journey*, is set in 1957.

It tells the tale of a group of train passengers stuck at Chipping Norton station after a landslide, and sheep on the track, delay a train from Banbury to Wales.

The 20-minute drama could now be broadcast on the county's hospital radio stations, Radio Cherwell and Radio Horton.

Community artist Sharon Woodward, who came up with the idea, said: "The story created was so imaginative and way beyond the

By William Crossley

simple play I was expecting. I can only describe it as being a comedy spy thriller, a bit like *Carry On Spying*.

"Creating it was hilarious; everyone had so much fun and really got into their roles, becoming spies, gangsters and police officers.

"As well as stimulating the mind, it allowed people to be someone else, to relax and have a lot of fun, which is very important for those living with dementia."

Jan and Ralph Burrage attend Lights Up.

Mrs Burrage, who cares for Ralph, said: "We loved making the play and would go home each time with

our jaws aching having laughed so much. Sometimes Ralph doesn't remember much about the day, but if he has had a good time the feeling remains with him for some time."

The club was set up by West Oxfordshire District Council last year. Mark Booty, the council's cabinet member responsible for health, said: "A year ago we formed the West Oxfordshire Dementia Alliance with NHS partners and other organisations to improve services and support.

"Lights Up is a shining example of how this is working."

The club meets twice a month at the Highlands day centre, in Burford Road.

For more details, call 0845 1204048.

## Offerings at the Mill take the biscuit

THE Io Theatre Company and Ovalhouse bring *The Snow Spider* to Banbury's Mill Arts Centre today and tomorrow.

It tells the story of how everything changes on Gwyn Griffiths' ninth birthday, when five strange gifts unlock the door to a series of exciting

discoveries. Gwyn is drawn into a dangerous adventure and must confront powerful forces from the past if he is to come to terms with his own future – but he has the help of Arianwen, a silver spider from another world.

Performances are at 10am and 1pm and are suitable for ages 8+.

Tickets cost £7 or £6 for school groups.

King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys bring their swing music to the Mill on December 20 at 7.30pm. They boast dazzling musicianship and riveting stage performances. Tickets cost £14 in advance/£16 on the door.

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# More adventures in this second of Hobbit trilogy

THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG (12A, 161 minutes)

**A**LMOST 10 years ago to the day, Peter Jackson was preparing to unveil *The Lord Of The Rings: The Return Of The King*, the concluding chapter of his ambitious Tolkien trilogy, to UK audiences.

The third film subsequently won all 11 Academy Awards for which it was nominated and became the first fantasy film and only the second sequel to claim the top prize of Best Picture.

This new trilogy, adapted from Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, has not fared quite so well.

The filmmaker's decision to shoot the prequels in high-definition 3D at the higher rate of 48 frames per second, compared to the usual 24 frames, has divided audiences and critics, allowing us to see the stitching on costumes and the intricacy of the prosthetics in startlingly minute detail.

The second instalment, *The Desolation Of Smaug*, picks up where *An Unexpected Journey* concluded.

Plucky hobbit Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman), wise wizard Gandalf The Grey (Sir Ian McKellen) and the company of dwarves led by Thorin Oakenshield (Richard

Armitage) continue their perilous quest to reclaim their lost gold from the dragon Smaug (voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch) in his lair.

The adventurers encounter a shape-shifter called Beorn (Mikael Persbrandt) and a nest of giant spiders, guaranteed to make skin crawl and have arachnophobes quivering in their seats.

Gandalf discovers the identity of the necromancer, who has been wreaking havoc in Dol Guldur, and when orcs storm Mirkwood, the elves led by King Thranduil (Lee Pace) and his son Legolas (Orlando Bloom) marshal their forces to repel the invaders.

Meanwhile, Bilbo and the dwarves – Bifur (William Kircher), Bofur (James Nesbitt), Bombur (Stephen Hunter), Balin (Ken Stott), Dwalin (Graham McTavish), Fili (Dean O'Gorman), Kili (Aidan Turner), Dori (Mark Hadlow), Nori (Jed Brophy), Ori (Adam Brown), Gloin (Peter Hambleton), Oin (John Callen) and Thrór (Jeffrey Thomas) – endure some rough and tumble as they escape certain death by travelling down river rapids in barrels.

Eventually, they discover a hidden door in the mountainside that leads to Smaug and his horde of glittering treasure.



Martin Freeman, left, stars as Bilbo, Jed Brophy is Nori and Richard Armitage is Thorin in *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*

Picture: PA Photo/Warner Bros

## CakeWhat's on

### Music

**FRIDAY: New Inn, Main Road, Middleton Cheney:** Nikki

Petherick. Singer and guitarist performing covers old and new. 9pm. 01295 710399

**Pepper Pot, Burchester Place, Banbury:** Resurrection Duo. Rock and pop duo. Free admission. 9pm. 01295 261790.

**St James's Church, Church Street, Somerton:** Brackley Male Voice Choir in a concert of seasonal songs and carols. All proceeds to the church. Ticket includes a glass of wine and refreshments. 7.30pm. £6. 01869 345439.

**SATURDAY: Lampet Arms, Tadmart:** Nikki Petherick, singer and guitarist bringing you covers from '60s to present. Free admission. 9pm. 01295 780070.

**The Methodist Church, Marlborough Road, Banbury:** A Celebration of Christmas Music. The Judith Baxter Singers with Bodicote Handbell Ringers. Serenade with Gwyn and Ruth. £7.50 (to include a programme). In aid of Alzheimer's Society. 7.30pm. Refreshments. Tickets from One Man Band, White Lion Walk or on the door. 01295 266788.

### Cinema

**Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury:** Please call the cinema for information. Box office: 0871 224 4007

**The Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton:** Screening of a performance of *Richard II*, from the RSC, Tue 7pm. *Philomena*, 12A, Wed 7.30pm. Box office: 01608 642350 (Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-2pm).

### Theatre

**The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:** Until Jan 12, *Jack and the Giant*. The season for panto is here. A boy and his cow, a giant and his castle in the clouds, beanstalks, bravery and beautiful princesses – all feature in our unique twist on this classic story. Performances at 10.15am: Dec 16, Jan 8; 1.45pm: Dec 16, Jan 8; 2pm, Dec 14-15, 21-24, Dec 28-31, Jan 4-5, 11-12; 4pm Dec 12-13, 19-20, Dec 26-27, Jan 2-3, Jan 9; 6pm, Dec 14-15, 21-24, 28-31, Jan 4-5, 11-12; 7.30pm Dec 12-13, Dec 19-20, Dec 26-27, Jan 2-3, 8-9. Tickets (preview £9, concession £8), £5-25 (varies according to date, concessions for under-16s, over-60s and benefit

claimants). Box office: 01608 642350, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10-2pm.

### Events

**FRIDAY: Austrian afternoon tea:** Waddesdon Manor, Main Street, Waddesdon. Enjoy a special tea in the restaurant plus *Winter Light at Waddesdon*: Bruce Munro exhibition in the gardens. £16.50. Plus house and/or gardens admission £18, children £9; garden only £9, children £4. 01296 653226.

**Bingo:** Village Hall, Cote Road, Aston. Christmas event with raffle and refreshments in aid of village hall funds. 7.30pm. 01993 851649.

**SATURDAY: Craft fair:** Town Hall, Market Place, Chipping Norton. Stalls from local artisans, including wood, jewellery, textiles, candles, soap. 10am-4.30pm. 07976 715908.

**WEDNESDAY: A Glimpse of Russia:** The Gallery, The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton. Until Jan 12. Original oils on canvas by Russian artist Alexander Kolotilov. Gallery is open during performances and films and Wed, Fri and Sat 11am-3pm. 01608 642350 Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm



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## 2 PETS

## 3 SERVICES

## 4 BUSINESS

## 5 ENTERTAINMENTS

## 6 HOLIDAYS

## 7 EDUCATION

## 8 PUBLIC NOTICES

## 9 RECRUITMENT

## 10 MOTORS

## 11 PROPERTY

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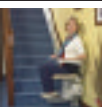
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### Public Notices

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Fax: 01295 221878,  
E-Mail: Licensing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk,  
Web: www.cherwell.gov.uk. Full details of the application can be inspected by appointment at the address above. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction of the offence is not exceeding £5,000.

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# CakeMotoring

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## Seventh heaven in Kia's new 4x4

By David Duffy

EVER felt the need to be able to carry six passengers? It might not happen often, but the flexibility that a seven-seater vehicle offers is an attractive prospect.

So much so, that Kia has dropped its five-seater version of the full-size Sorento off-roader in favour of one with seven seats.

Out too has gone the two-wheel-drive model and the 2.0-litre diesel engine, in favour of a punchier 194 horsepower, 2.2-litre diesel, which drives either through a six-speed manual gearbox, or the company's slick six-speed automatic.

But the Korean carmaker says that the changes that have been made to the engine actually make it more economical, efficient and less polluting than the smaller unit that it replaces.

Other changes are much more obvious when you take to the road. A lower ride height, revised suspension, steering and brakes all combine to give a more refined drive. It is also quieter than before.

The Sorento is a seriously large vehicle, built for people who need either the ability to tow up to two tonnes, or go properly off-road — or both. With prices starting at £26,500, the Sorento sits on a re-engineered chassis that gives boosts to safety, driving dynamics and

refinement, while an upgrade to the interior has lifted both quality and standard equipment.

The clear advance in ride refinement is also reflected in enhancements to the interior, where leather is used to trim the steering wheel and gearshifts of every model and chrome garnish is applied around the cabin.

All versions, apart from the entry-level model, also have ambient lighting in the front centre console and door trims, and every model has practical door sill scuff plates.

Safety systems are up there with the best, ranging from anti-lock brakes and electronic stability control to hill-start assist control, six airbags and active front headrests that minimise whiplash injuries.

Equipment across the range includes LED daytime running lights, cruise control, extendable sun-visors with illuminated vanity



**POWER PACKED:** The Sorento can tow up to two tonnes

mirrors and reversing sensors. The test model, in the second of the four ascending trim levels, added rain-sensing front wipers, a leather-trimmed instrument panel and a 4.3-inch LCD colour touch-screen with a reversing camera system.

The Sorento's third row of seats fold quickly and easily into the load-space to give a completely flat floor, so they take up no extra room when the car is in its more usual five-seater set-up.

And those seven seats come with the reassurance provided by a seven-year, 100,000-mile manufacturer warranty and a year's Europe-wide roadside rescue. It is a versatile package packing a powerful punch.

### Auto facts

**Model:** Kia Sorento 2.2 CRDI  
**KX-2** AWD auto  
**Price:** £30,595  
**Insurance group:** 21 (1-50)  
**Fuel consumption (Combined):** 42.2mpg  
**Top speed:** 118mph  
**Length:** 468.5cm/184.5in  
**Width:** 188.5cm/74.2in  
**Luggage capacity:** 18.2 cu ft  
**Fuel tank capacity:** 14 gallons/64 litres  
**CO2 emissions:** 175g/km  
**Warranty:** Seven years/100,000 miles

## Christmasgiftideas

### Silverstone offers festive high-speed thrills

SILVERSTONE circuit is offering a range of driving experiences as Christmas presents for speed fans.

The circuit's thrill (£79) and experience (£149) super choice anytime vouchers give recipients the option to choose from some of the most iconic track-prepared supercars on the planet, and then drive them around sections of the legendary Grand Prix circuit.

The range of vehicles on offer includes the Ferrari 360 Modena F, Aston Martin V8 Vantage, Lotus Evora, Lotus Exige S, Nissan GT-R and

Mercedes C63 AMG, plus the Formula Silverstone single seater and Ford Fiesta ST rally car.

For a £20 upgrade, the vouchers can be converted into a bundle, combining the gift with a variety of additional extras, ranging from a ticket to the Friday of the 2014 Formula 1 British Grand Prix, or two Friday tickets to the 2014 MotoGP British Grand Prix, to a photo CD of the driving experience, or a limited edition Silverstone watch.

In addition to the driving packages, Silverstone has a range of

experiences including a two-hour tour that takes visitors behind the scenes at the circuit, telling the story of the home of British motor racing, with visits to race control, on-site workshops and the Grand Prix track itself, culminating in the opportunity to stand on the top step of the British Grand Prix podium.

■ New for 2013, the Silverstone Wall of Fame, from £59, enables fans to have a personalised brick, with your own name and message, take pride of place alongside Silverstone motorsport legends.

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## Wheelsanddeals

■ **VAUXHALL** has launched a new addition to its line-up; the Corsa Sting. Starting at £8,995 on the road, it comes with a choice of 16-in alloy wheels in a silver finish, complete with matching silver stripes on the bonnet, roof and tailgate and silver exterior mirror caps, while the option for 17-in alloy wheels comes in a white finish with white twin sports stripes and matching exterior mirrors. Colin Igoea, retail operator at Bridge Motors, in Banbury, said: "The Vauxhall Corsa has been putting the fun back into driving for the last two decades. The addition of the Corsa Sting to the model's line-up demonstrates just how versatile and in-demand the vehicle is."

■ **NISSAN** has released pricing for its latest generation Qashqai. When the mid-size SUV goes on sale in January, prices will start from £17,595 and rise to £27,845, with a choice of four trim levels.

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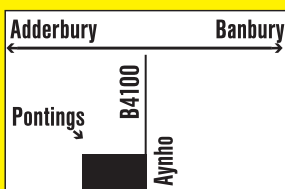
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